

(c) if so, whether the Government proposed to introduce a train for common passengers having all the coaches for only second class ticket holders and make arrangements for general catering services in the trains meant for common passengers;

(d) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Number of coaches, reserved or unreserved, in a train is determined by the limitations of track, traction and terminal facilities. With the progressive switching over from steam to heavier traction like diesel and electric, number of bogies in a train have increased. First-Add boxes are provided with the Guards of all the passenger carrying trains. In superfast, Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains, first-aid boxes with additional contents are also kept in custody of Train Supdts./Pantry Car Manager. Scheme of providing a team of doctor and para-medical staff has also been introduced in a few selected long distance trains. Catering requirements of passengers are met satisfactorily from the static and mobile units.

(c) to (e) In July'95 Time Table, Railways had introduced four pairs of 'Jansewa Express' with exclusive second class sitting accommodation. Due to poor occupancy and public demands, two of these trains had to be provided with sleeper class and upper class accommodation also.

[English]

Deposit of Pension Amount

4071. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount deposited in Railway Pension Fund and the annual payout from the Fund;

(b) the manner in which Railway Pension Fund is invested at present, and the annual income out of such investment;

(c) the recommendations of the Railway Committee on capital restructuring in this respect; and

(d) the action has been taken to complement the recommendation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total amount deposited in Railway Pension Fund and the annual payout from the Fund for the last three years is

as under :

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Deposit	Withdrawal
1993-94	1540.53	1487.85
1994-95	2070.41	1086.00
1995-96	2170.33	2117.17

(b) Balances of the Fund remain with the Central Government (Reserve Bank of India) and earn interest at the rate applicable for payment of dividend to the General Revenues, which presently is 7 percent.

(c) and (d) Railway Capital Restructuring Committee vide their recommendation No. 37 have opined that in case the pension fund can not be operated as a fund which registers substantial growth from time to time, as is being done elsewhere in the world, there is no point in continuing it as at present. The report of the committee is under examination.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility to Panchayat Headquarters

4072. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of panchayat headquarters connected with telephone facility in Madhya Pradesh till now;

(b) the amount spent for this purpose during the year 1995, 1996 and 1997 so far; and

(c) the time by which the remaining panchayat headquarters are likely to be connected with this facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of a total of 30,922 Nos. of Gram Panchayats, 19,226 Nos. have been connected with telephone facility in Madhya Pradesh till now.

(b) The amounts spent are-

During 1995 - Rs. 61.25 Crores

During 1996 - Rs. 24.90 Crores

During 1997 - Rs. 51.10 Crores

(c) Remaining Gram Panchayats are proposed to be connected with telephone facility during, 9th plan period.

[English]

Development of Railway Station

4073. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have been